

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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1. In early November 1953 the Chinese Communist authorities were endeavoring to increase the import of foodstuffs into Lhasa to prevent the discontent occasioned by rising prices from breaking out into overt agitation. In the first week of November the price of rice in Lhasa was 120 rupees per maund¹; ground barley (tsamba) sold for 100 rupees for 25 seers;¹ the price of sugar was 10 rupees per seer.
2. In late October the Chinese Communist authorities, through Bank of China representatives at Gyangtse (N 28-57, E 89-38), Yatung (N 27-26, E 88-53), Gangtok, in Sikkim, and Kalimpong, West Bengal, were urging Tibetan merchants to accept loans. These loans were being made without interest, or at nominal interest rates.
3. The Chinese Communist were opening new schools, with a system of education based on Chinese methods, throughout the entire eastern section of Tibet, as far south as Yatung. They were also sending regularly from Tibet into China delegations of Tibetan lamas and officials so that the latter might see the developments taking place within China. On the return of such delegations to Tibet it was customary to give a large cash present to each member of the delegation, similar to the cash presents given to members of Indian delegations who visited Communist China in 1952 and 1953.² In October two elderly lamas from the Zhikatse (N 29-15, E 88-53) Monastery, who had visited China as members of a delegation and returned to Zhikatse, criticized the lack of religious freedom which they had seen in China. The Chinese Communist military authorities arrested both lamas and sent them to China. This incident arouse considerable feeling against the Chinese Communists in the Zhikatse area.
4. Indian officials attached to the Indian Trade Agent offices at Gyangtse and Yatung, who had formerly associated freely with Tibetan nobles and businessmen, were in November 1953 avoiding contacts with Tibetans. They were also

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refusing to accept anti-Communist letters, pamphlets and other literature, if offered by Tibetans. The Indian personnel of the Indian Trade Agent offices in Gyangtse and Yatung were not allowing any anti-Chinese or anti-Communist publications in their homes and offices.

- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. One maund is 40 seers or 80 pounds.
25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. A comparison of these prices with those reported in
25X1A [REDACTED] from a different source, indicates that the price of rice here
quoted for Lhasa is only slightly higher than that quoted for Gyangtse in
June 1953; the price of tsampa, however, works out to be 560 sangs per
khay, as opposed to a June price of 250 sangs per khay (based on 7 sangs
per rupee, and 20 seers per khay).
2. A number of Tibetan delegations have been reported by Chinese Communist
news agencies, but not with the regularity implied by source. It is
possible that only the more important delegations have been publicized.

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